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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 29 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the report of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the situation in Algeria, issued on 22 September 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ernst **Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the report of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the situation in Algeria, issued on 22 September 1998

The European Union takes note of and welcomes the detailed report of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the situation in Algeria in order to provide the international community with greater clarity of that situation.

The European Union sees the visit of the United Nations Panel as an important step in the dialogue between the international community and Algeria. It hopes that the report will help the Algerian Government in its effort to develop the rule of law and to strengthen the democratic process and the reforms to which Algeria is committed.

The European Union will study the report carefully and take its findings into account with regard to the future cooperation between the European Union and Algeria. Furthermore, the European Union hopes that Algeria will engage United Nations human rights mechanisms in its cooperation with the international community. The European Union believes it is indispensable to strengthen democratic pluralism and to reinforce the civilian element in government, which is now feasible.

In this context, the European Union repeats its categorical condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remains supportive of the Algerian Government's efforts to consolidate democracy and to protect its citizens from terrorism. The European Union repeats its commitment to a political dialogue with Algeria.